

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. For use in a base station, an apparatus for sending and
2 receiving an acknowledgment message, comprising:

3 a channel controller capable of assigning a common
4 control channel to a mobile station wherein said channel
5 controller is capable of dedicating said common control channel
6 to said mobile station for a predetermined period of time; and
7 a transceiver coupled to said channel controller
8 capable of transmitting and receiving said acknowledgment message
9 on said common control channel.

1 2. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said base
2 station is capable of broadcasting a paging message to said
3 mobile station.

1 3. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said
2 paging message comprises identification of said common control
3 channel.

1 4. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said base
2 station further comprises a timer associated with said channel
3 controller for regulating the time that said common control
4 channel is available for said mobile station.

1 5. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 4 wherein said base
2 station is capable of assigning said common control channel to
3 said mobile station for receiving at least one message from said
4 mobile station.

1 6. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said
2 paging message provides limits for said time period for receiving
3 said acknowledgment message from said mobile station.

1 7. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said
2 paging message comprises a forward channel message including
3 fields for identifying said forward channel message as a reliable
4 ACK message specifying a dedicated common control channel address
5 and identity.

1 8. A wireless communication network comprising:

2 a plurality of base stations capable of communicating
3 with a plurality of mobile stations disposed in a coverage area of
4 said plurality of base stations; and

5 an apparatus associated with at least one of said
6 plurality of base stations comprising for sending and receiving an
acknowledgment message comprising:

7 a channel controller capable of assigning a common
8 control channel to a mobile station wherein said channel
9 controller is capable of dedicating said common control
10 channel to said mobile station for a predetermined period of
11 time; and
12

13 a transceiver coupled to said channel controller
14 capable of transmitting and receiving said acknowledgment
15 message on said common control channel.

1 9. The wireless communication network as set forth in
2 Claim 8 wherein said base station is capable of broadcasting a
3 paging message to said mobile station.

1 10. The wireless communication network as set forth in
2 Claim 9 wherein said paging message comprises identification of
3 said common control channel.

1 11. The wireless communication network as set forth in
2 Claim 8 wherein said base station further comprises a timer
3 associated with said channel controller for regulating the time
4 that said common control channel is available for said mobile
5 station.

1 12. The wireless communication network as set forth in
2 Claim 11 wherein said base station is capable of assigning said
3 common control channel to said mobile station for receiving at
4 least one message from said mobile station.

1 13. The wireless communication network as set forth in
2 Claim 8 wherein said paging message provides limits for said time
3 period for receiving said acknowledgment message from said mobile
4 station.

1 14. The wireless communication network as set forth in
2 Claim 13 wherein said paging message comprises a forward channel
3 message including fields for identifying said forward channel
4 message as a reliable ACK message specifying a dedicated common
5 control channel address and identity.

1 15. For use in a base station, a method for sending and
2 receiving an acknowledgment message comprising the steps of:
3 assigning a common control channel to a mobile station,
4 wherein said common control channel is dedicated to said mobile
5 station for a predetermined period of time;
6 transmitting a paging message to said mobile station,
7 said paging message operable to cause said mobile station to
8 transmit and receive on said common control channel during said
9 predetermined period of time; and
10 receiving said acknowledgment message from said mobile
11 station on said common control channel.

1 16. The method as set forth in Claim 15 wherein said paging
2 message comprises identification of said common control channel.

1 17. The method as set forth in Claim 16 further comprising
2 the step of regulating the time that said common control channel
3 is available for use by said mobile station.

1 18. The method as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising
2 the step of assigning said common control channel to said mobile
3 station for receiving at least one message from said mobile
4 station.

1 19. The method as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising
2 the steps of providing limits for said time period for receiving
3 said acknowledgment message from said mobile station.

20. The method as set forth in Claim 19 wherein said
paging message comprises a forward channel message including fields
for identifying said forward channel message as a reliable ACK
message specifying a dedicated common control channel address and
identity.